GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:936
ANSWERED ON:08.02.2017
Visa Free Entry in Hong Kong
Chinnaraj Shri Gopalakrishnan

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian travellers will not be eligible for visa-free entry to Hong Kong from January, 2017 onwards and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the pre-arrival registration for Indian Nationals has commenced and Indian nationals must furnish an "approval slip" before boarding a plane or ship to Hong Kong and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government to the new rules introduced for the Indian tourists?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) to (c) As per immigration regulation of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), Indian nationals who are desirous of staying in Hong Kong for a period exceeding 14 days are required to obtain visa. Indian passport holders who visit Hong Kong for less than 14 days for tourism and such purposes can enter without first obtaining visa. Since 23 January 2017 Hong Kong authorities have introduced an additional layer of scrutiny for such Indian nationals who wish to avail the visa free entry for less than 14 days' stay. This additional layer of scrutiny is mandatory pre-arrival registration. Only those Indian nationals who successfully complete on-line pre-arrival registration could enter Hong Kong and obtain visa on arrival. For others they are required to obtain prior visa before arriving in Hong Kong.

Government of India has conveyed to HKSAR authorities that in view of expanding people-to-people and business ties, it is important that visa and immigration system help such exchanges and not create additional hurdles. They have also been reminded of Government of India's liberalization of visa system for HKSAR passport holders through on-line visa facility.